

Ellis Island Oral Interview

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Education Department
Ellis Island Immigration Museum
Statue of Liberty National Monument



Interviewee: Mei Jia Lin

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Interviewer: Peter Wong

Audio Engineer: Kevin Daley

High School: Science Center High School

Interview for the Groundswell Mural Project

Mei Jia Lin:

How has this project influenced your outlook on immigration?

“It has given me a better idea of what really happened to the immigrants in the past. The history books always tell us the ‘history of immigrants’ but it never really gave an in-depth look at what was behind the harsh journey, being crushed, crammed in the tenement homes. You only saw the surface. You never really saw why they came here, what truly motivated them to work hard. And through this project, we had to research, go to Ellis Island, and look up different stories of immigrants that really came here during that time. And it just made me realize, ‘wow, that was hard.’”